



Charlotte Mason's House of Education,
Scale How, Ambleside, UK, 2009

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P.N.E.U. NOTES.

STREATHAM BRANCH.—The first syllabus of winter work that has reached us is that of the new Streatham Branch. The secretary writes: "We have forty-three members, and hope before the end of the winter to have double that number. A great many are taking the *Parents' Review*. . . . I think we may rouse a good deal of interest here if only the lectures are interesting. I have been working tremendously hard, and am now very anxious that it should go off well." Certainly the secretary (Mrs. Strode) and another lady have worked hard, for a former letter explained that they *canvassed* for members. But the result is very cheering, forty-three members, which we suppose means eighty-six, as a member's ticket includes both heads of the house, is an extremely good beginning, and the subjoined list of lectures certainly promises interest. We hope that this will prove as vigorous a branch as those of Belgravia and St. John's Wood, which have had in the last three years a splendid record of educational work amongst *parents*. Probably the history of education offers nothing so profoundly interesting and so full of promise as this co-operative effort on the part of parents to take up questions of the bringing-up of children with something of professional seriousness and method. All hail to the P.N.E.U.! We hope there may be many new branches this winter. "A great many take in the *Parents' Review*," the secretary of the Streatham Branch writes. We wish it had been all. Our magazine should be, so to speak, the *text-book* of the Society to carry on the work of the lectures; and we may suggest to the committees of any new branches that the best plan is to have a 10s. subscription, which includes the *Review*.

THE PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL UNION (STREATHAM BRANCH).—Season 1892. A course of lectures will be given as follows in the High School, Streatham (adjoining the Free Library):—Oct. 13, "The Training of Children," by A. T. Schofield, Esq., M.D., Mem. N.H.S. (Chairman of the Executive Council P.N.E.U.) Oct. 25, "The Religious Training of Children," by J. Aldous, Esq. Nov. 10, "Heredity," by A. H. Tubby, Esq., M.B., M.S. Nov. 22, "The Hygiene of Handwriting," by John Jackson, Esq., F.E.I.S. Dec. 8, "Nursery Hygiene," by Miss Helen Webb, M.B., London. Dec. 20, "Musical Training," by John Farmer, Esq., Balliol College.

THE PARENTS' REVIEW

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE
OF HOME-TRAINING AND CULTURE.

"Education is an atmosphere, a discipline, a life."

DANTE.

BY R. H. LAW, M.A.

DANTE offers an apparent exception to the golden rule, "Read authors, not critics." Several causes unite to render him the most difficult of the supreme poets. His style, for all its vigour and directness, has sometimes puzzling inversions; with the brevity, it has more than the obscurity of Tacitus. His allusions, in the "*Divina Commedia*," to the persons and events of his own time are often only intelligible by the aid of a traditional interpretation, handed down from the days when Boccaccio first lectured at Florence. And, even with the help of this and of all the patient ingenuity of generations of scholars, many interesting and important questions are still unsolved.

Again, Dante's point of view was quite different from ours. Mediæval Theology, The Scholastic Philosophy, The Ptolemaic system, even the Theory of Judicial Astrology, have all left their impress on his work, and without some knowledge of at least the outlines of this derelict mass of obsolete science we shall miss its true significance. Nor is this all. If, as has been frequently maintained, his writings—not excepting the "*Vita Nuova*"—are to be taken in a mystical as well as a literal sense, if the characters and scenes he describes so vividly serve but as the vehicle of another and profounder message, the need of